

RAYMOND D. BECKNER AND LULU STANLEY BECKNER

JANUARY 31, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. LANE, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1584]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1584) for the relief of Raymond D. Beckner and Lulu Stanley Beckner, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

A similar bill has passed the House in two previous Congresses and not taken up in the Senate. Under the rules of this committee a bill which has passed the House twice will not be considered further until it has passed the Senate. Therefore, the present bill has passed the Senate and your committee recommends favorable consideration be given it.

The facts will be found fully set forth in Senate Report No. 859, this Congress, which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

[S. Rept. No. 859, 84th Cong., 1st sess.]

The purpose of the proposed legislation, as amended, is to pay Raymond D. Beckner and Lulu Stanley Beckner, of Fairmont, W. Va., \$4,952.50 in full settlement of all claims of Mr. Beckner and his wife, Lulu Stanley Beckner, against the United States arising out of a paralytic stroke suffered by Mrs. Beckner on November 5, 1943, resulting from the donation of blood under the wartime blood donor program which was conducted for the armed services by the American National Red Cross.

STATEMENT

During the war the American Red Cross, at the request of the armed services, conducted a program to procure from voluntary donors blood for the use of the Army and the Navy. The Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council assumed general supervision of the professional services involved, including the prescription of the technical methods to be used and the selection both of the national and local technical supervisors. In a number of instances, the professional phases of the operation of the centers and mobile units were directed by

the medical officers of the Army or the Navy. Blood centers were established at strategic points throughout the Nation. One of these was located in Pittsburgh. Mobile units operating from these centers made visits to outlying communities located within a radius of approximately 75 miles.

The mobile unit from the Pittsburgh center was in operation in Fairmont, W. Va., on November 5, 1943, and the Fairmont chapter reports that a blood donation was made by Mrs. Lulu Beckner (Mrs. Raymond D. Beckner) on that date. According to the records of the Pittsburgh chapter, the physician in charge of the mobile unit on that day was Dr. Gordon A. Kagen, lieutenant, Medical Corps, United States Navy, who had been assigned by the Navy to duty in the Pittsburgh blood donor center.

The American Red Cross, in a letter dated May 16, 1950, stated:

"According to the Fairmont chapter, no unusual reactions on the part of Mrs. Beckner were observed either during or following her blood donation. However, on November 6, 1943, the chapter was informed that at about 1:30 p. m., on November 5, 1943, approximately 1½ hours after she had made her blood donation, Mrs. Beckner, then at the house of a friend, suffered what her husband, Mr. Beckner, termed convulsions, and what the family physician who saw her at about 6:30 p. m., that day is reported to have termed a stroke."

In a letter appended to this report, Dr. Paul Yost, of Fairmont, W. Va., states:

"I was called to the home of Mrs. Mary Patton, Third Street, Fairmont, W. Va., on November 5, 1943, to see Mrs. Lulu Beckner, wife of Raymond D. Beckner. I found Mrs. Beckner suffering from shock and cerebral hemorrhage or stroke of apoplexy.

"I was informed by the husband, Raymond D. Beckner, that about noon of that day Mrs. Beckner had acted as a blood donor in contribution to the Armed Forces of the Government of the United States.

"To the medical profession there isn't supposed to be any risk in taking a normal amount of blood from a normal person.

"In the case of Mrs. Beckner something occurred which can be explained as follows: Due to her age and that she was in late menopausal life with an unstable nervous system and within an hour after the bloodletting procedure Mrs. Beckner went into a state of what is known to the medical profession as generalized capillary fragility which causes the blood pressure to become very high for a short duration and the stroke of apoplexy or cerebral hemorrhage is a direct result of what I have just stated.

"I have been Mrs. Beckner's attending doctor since November 5, 1943. Her condition has been such that someone has had to be in attendance to care for her since November 5, 1943."

Mr. Beckner has been employed as a janitor at the Federal Building, Fairmont, W. Va., earning a salary of \$180 per month. With the salary of an attendant for his wife and living expenses, Mr. Beckner has been thrown deeply into debt. He has sold his home and moved to another property which he owned. The claimant has stated that he has been compelled to expend for treatments, hospital and doctor bills, and nurses hired, the sum of \$4,953.50 as of February 28, 1950, and will be required to expend additional sums of money in the future, on account of the condition of Lulu Stanley Beckner.

While admittedly there is no legal responsibility on the part of the Government to compensate these individuals for the loss which they have suffered, nevertheless, the committee does not believe these claimants should be required to bear alone the personal misfortune resulting from a desire to serve our country in a worthwhile capacity. Mr. Beckner has been required to spend considerable sums of money in the treatment of his wife, he has been required to sell his home, his wife has lost her health, all because Mrs. Beckner engaged in a patriotic endeavor to be of assistance to her country.

In view of the circumstances outlined above, the committee recommends favorable consideration of this legislation.

Attached hereto and made a part of this report is a letter from the Department of the Navy, a letter from the American National Red Cross, and other pertinent data relative to this claim.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL,
Washington 25, D. C., July 19, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,

*Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The bill (H. R. 842) for the relief of Raymond D. Beckner was referred by your committee with request for a report thereon.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the sum of \$4,953.50 to Raymond D. Beckner, of Fairmont, W. Va., "in full settlement of all claims of the said Raymond D. Beckner and his wife, Lulu Stanley Beckner, against the United States for hospital, medical, and other expenses incurred in the treatment of the said Lulu Stanley Beckner, who suffered a paralytic stroke and became totally disabled on November 5, 1943, as the result of furnishing blood to a blood bank operated in Fairmont under the wartime blood donor program which was conducted for the armed services by the American National Red Cross."

Information as to the circumstances of the incident described in the bill, of the alleged disability suffered by Lulu Stanley Beckner, and of the expenses incurred on account thereof are contained in a letter addressed under date of February 21, 1950, by the Fairmont Chapter, American Red Cross, to Hon. Harley M. Kilgore, United States Senate. The pertinent parts of this communication are quoted below:

"In November 1943 the American Red Cross of Fairmont, W. Va., acting as a recruiting agency for the blood-plasma program for the Armed Forces, advertised for blood donors. Mrs. Lulu Beckner, of Route No. 1, Fairmont, W. Va., volunteered as a donor and was scheduled to report at the blood-donor center on November 5. Mrs. Becker kept her appointment and met all requirements such as physical examination, etc. She gave blood at approximately 12 noon and neither during nor immediately following appeared to have any unusual reactions. She was released from the blood-donor center by the Navy physician in charge as physically able to leave.

"The following day, November 6, 1943, the chapter was advised that when Mrs. Beckner left the blood-donor center she went to the home of a friend in Fairmont, W. Va., and about 1:30 p. m., November 5, she became very ill and, as termed by her husband, went into convulsions. The family physician was called but he did not see or attend Mrs. Beckner until 6:30 p. m. the same day, November 5. Dr. Paul Yost, family physician, when contacted stated that Mrs. Beckner had a stroke; further than that he made no statement.

"According to Mr. Beckner, his wife was later moved to her home at Route No. 1, Fairmont, W. Va. She was unable to assume the responsibility of her household duties and required the aid of another person continuously. He obtained the services of Mrs. Sophia Griggs, who was then in her late sixties. Her salary was \$20 per month. She was with Mrs. Beckner until August 1947 when she fell in the Beckner home and broke her hip. Mr. Beckner admitted Mrs. Griggs to the Fairmont General Hospital assuming responsibility for her hospital bill. The total bill paid by Mr. Beckner was \$1,049. There was a \$200 balance unpaid. Mr. Beckner was finally able to have Mrs. Griggs accepted by the department of public assistance for assistance which relieved him of further responsibility.

"At the time Mrs. Griggs became ill it was necessary that another attendant be obtained for Mrs. Beckner; however, the salary was \$50 per month.

"Mr. Beckner is employed as a janitor at the Federal Building, Fairmont, W. Va., earning a salary of \$180 per month. With the hospital expenses of Mrs. Griggs, the salary of an attendant for his wife, and living expenses, Mr. Beckner was thrown deeply into debt. He sold his home and moved to another property which he owned. In addition to the above expenses Mr. Beckner estimates that professional services and medicine for Mrs. Beckner since November 5, 1943, to the date of his first contact with the chapter on March 10, 1948, amounted to approximately \$1,000. Mr. Beckner tells me that he estimates the extra expenses of his wife's illness since November 5, 1943, at approximately \$5,000.

"According to Mr. Beckner, his wife has been constantly under the care of Dr. Paul Yost, Fairmont, W. Va., but has consulted other physicians. Those mentioned by Mr. Beckner were Dr. Hanes, Clarksburg, W. Va., and a doctor in Parkersburg, W. Va., but he was unable to recall the name.

"Under date of March 10, 1948, Mr. Beckner came to the chapter office requesting assistance in hospitalization for his wife. He asked particularly about having her admitted to a Government hospital. The eligibility requirements for admittance to a Government hospital were explained to him and he stated that he understood and that Mrs. Beckner did not meet the requirements.

Mr. Beckner feels that his wife's condition is directly caused by having donated blood. The chapter's responsibility in this connection was discussed with Mr. Beckner and he stated that he recognized the fact that Mrs. Beckner volunteered her services but that it did not relieve him of the responsibility which he has had since that time.

"The chapter acted merely as the recruiting agency and I should like to call your attention to the fact that the blood was donated directly to the Armed Forces and that the technical and professional service was done by the Government; in this instance supervision was given by a Navy physician."

The chairman of the Fairmont chapter reports that in April 1948 the chapter disaster chairman reviewed the case of Mrs. Beckner in the eastern area headquarters of the American Red Cross and in May 1948 a decision was received from the medical director that the donation of blood was in no way a causative factor in the apoplexy that followed. The medical service was advised that the practice of bleeding persons with high blood pressure and impending stroke is a common and accepted practice in medicine.

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Department of the Navy reports that nothing can be found in its file or in the records of the American Red Cross as of this date to indicate the medical basis for the conclusion above expressed and that the office of counsel of the Red Cross advises that any records in this matter have been destroyed in accordance with their 5-year retention program of records.

Under date of May 1, 1950, Paul Yost, M. D., of Fairmont, W. Va., the attending physician of Mrs. Beckner, submitted the following report to Senator Kilgore concerning Mrs. Beckner's illness and the probable cause thereof.

"I was called to the home of Mrs. Mary Patton on November 5, 1943, to see Mrs. Lula Beckner, wife of Raymond D. Beckner. I found Mrs. Beckner suffering from shock and cerebral hemorrhage or stroke of apoplexy.

"I was informed by the husband, Raymond D. Beckner, that about noon of that day, that Mrs. Beckner had acted as a blood donor in contribution to the Armed Forces of the Government of the United States.

"To the medical profession there isn't supposed to be any risk in taking a normal amount of blood from a normal person.

"In the case of Mrs. Beckner something occurred which can be explained as follows. Due to her age and that she was in late menopausal life with an unstable nervous system and within an hour after the bloodletting procedure Mrs. Beckner went into a state of what is known to the medical profession as generalized "capillary fragility" which causes the blood pressure to become very high for a short duration and the stroke of apoplexy or cerebral hemorrhage is a direct result of what I have just stated.

"I have been Mrs. Beckner's attending doctor since November 5, 1943. Her condition has been such that someone was required to be in attendance to care for her since November 5, 1943."

There is no indication of any negligence on the part of the Navy or of the Red Cross in this case. The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery reports that from a professional standpoint the withdrawal of blood in reasonable amounts from people of middle age or with high blood pressure is not attendant with danger to such persons and, as a matter of fact, controlled bleeding of persons with high blood pressure is an accepted treatment for people who have high blood pressure.

The Department of the Navy has no information concerning the medical or other expenses incurred by the claimant as the result of this incident and no record is found of any claim filed with this Department by Mr. Beckner. There is no reason, however, to question the extent of the financial loss suffered by the claimant as outlined in detail in the report of the American Red Cross above quoted.

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery confirms the statements in the above-quoted report that a Navy physician was in charge of the program.

In the absence of negligence on the part of naval personnel, there appears to be no liability on the United States for the unfortunate incident and therefore the Department of the Navy is unable to recommend favorable action on the bill. If, however, on consideration of the circumstances involved in this particular case, the Congress should deem it appropriate to extend ex gratia relief, the Department of the Navy would interpose no objection to such action.

The Department of the Navy has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

G. L. RUSSELL,
*Rear Admiral, United States Navy,
Judge Advocate General of the Navy
(For the Secretary of the Navy).*

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS,
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS,
Washington, D. C., May 16, 1950.

The Honorable EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CELLER: Supplementing our letter of May 5 concerning H. R. 8182, for the relief of Raymond D. Beckner, there is submitted the following summary of pertinent information obtained from Red Cross records.

During the war the American Red Cross, at the request of the armed services, conducted a program to procure from voluntary donors, blood for the use of the Army and the Navy. The Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council assumed general supervision of the professional services involved, including the prescription of the technical methods to be used and the selection both of the national and local technical supervisors. In a number of instances, the professional phases of the operation of the centers and mobile units were directed by medical officers of the Army or the Navy.

Between the inauguration of the program on February 4, 1941, and September 15, 1945, when the last centers were closed, 13,326,242 pints of blood were donated. To accomplish this, blood centers, finally totaling 35, were established at strategic points throughout the Nation. One of these was located in Pittsburgh. Mobile units operating from these centers made visits to outlying communities located within a radius of approximately 75 miles.

The mobile unit from the Pittsburgh center was in operation in Fairmont, W. Va., on November 5, 1943, and the Fairmont chapter reports that a blood donation was made by Mrs. Lula Beckner (Mrs. Raymond D. Beckner) on that date. According to the records of the Pittsburgh chapter, the physician in charge of the mobile unit on that day was Dr. Gordon A. Kagen, lieutenant, Medical Corps, United States Navy, who had been assigned by the Navy to duty in the Pittsburgh blood donor center. In the latter part of 1943, most of the chapters that had operated wartime centers, the Pittsburgh chapter among them, destroyed all donor registration cards. Accordingly, it is not possible for us to produce the card containing the record of the results of Mrs. Beckner's examination made prior to her blood donation. However, it may be assumed that this examination, as prescribed by the National Research Council, was made in her case and that she was found to meet the minimum requirements for those considered acceptable as blood donors. Attached is a sample of the donor registration card in use in November 1943.

According to the Fairmont chapter, no unusual reactions on the part of Mrs. Beckner were observed either during or following her blood donation. However, on November 6, 1943, the chapter was informed that at about 1:30 p. m. on November 5, 1943, approximately 1½ hours after she had made her blood donation, Mrs. Beckner, then at the house of a friend, suffered what her husband, Mr. Beckner, termed convulsions, and what the family physician who saw her at about 6:30 p. m. that day is reported to have termed a stroke.

On March 10, 1948, Mr. Beckner advised the Fairmont chapter of the expense which he had undergone and was still undergoing as a result of his wife's illness. He asked for assistance in her hospitalization, inquiring particularly about having her admitted to a Government hospital. After the eligibility requirements for such admission were explained to him, he stated that he understood that Mrs. Beckner did not meet them. He stated also, after a discussion of the chapter's responsibility, that he realized that Mrs. Beckner had given the donation voluntarily. At no time has he advanced any claim against the Red Cross. In this connection, it may be assumed that, as was customary, Mrs. Beckner signed on the back of the donor registration card (see sample attached) the release to the effect that neither the Red Cross nor anyone connected with the Blood Donor Service would be held responsible for any consequences from her giving of blood.

Respectfully submitted,

RAMONE S. EATON, *Vice President.*

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

County of Marion, To Wit:

This day personally appeared before the undersigned authority, Raymond D. Beckner, who, after being first duly sworn upon his oath says: That he is a citizen of the United States of America, is 55 years of age, and is a resident of Marion County, W. Va.; that his present occupation is that of janitor in the Federal Building, in Fairmont, W. Va.; that he is the husband of Lulu Stanley Beckner.

That on or about the 5th day of November 1943, his wife, Lulu Stanley Beckner, voluntarily appeared at the Presbyterian Church in Fairmont, W. Va., for the purpose of donating blood through the soldier blood bank project of the United States Government, which project was being at the time sponsored by the Fairmont Chapter of the Red Cross; that she was at said time in good health and was of the age of 54 years and was a housewife by occupation; that at about 1 p. m. of said day, a quantity of her blood was taken by the doctors and nurses in charge of said project, and that at about 1:30 p. m., at a neighbor's home in Fairmont a short distance away from said church, she became suddenly and violently ill, and suffered a paralytic stroke as a result of which she became completely and totally disabled and has continued in such physical condition to the present time; that she is entirely helpless and is required to remain in bed 95 percent of the time, and as affiant is advised, has no chance of recovery, and very little chance of improvement,

Affiant further says that, as he is advised, the taking of her blood at said time and place caused her disability.

Affiant further says that he has been compelled to expend and lay out, for treatments, hospital and doctor bills, and nurses hired, the sum of \$4,953.50 as of this date, and will be required to lay out and expend in the future large sums of money, for and on account of the condition of the said Lulu Stanley Beckner the amounts of which are at present unknown to affiant.

Affiant further says that he verily believes that the said taking of blood from his wife, Lulu Stanley Beckner, was the sole cause of her illness and condition, and that as he is advised, there were no existing contributing causes before or at the time of the inception of said disability.

Affiant further saith not.

RAYMOND D. BECKNER, *Affiant*.

Taken, subscribed, and sworn to before me this 28th day of February 1950.

[SEAL]

ROBERT C. GROSS,

Notary Public, Marion County, W. Va.

My commission expires April 29, 1956.

FAIRMONT, W. VA., *July 26, 1948.*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter for Mr. Ray Beckner. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Beckner are at the place they need help. On November 5, 1943, Mrs. Ray Beckner came to Fairmont to donate a pint of blood for our boys and girls who were fighting to win a war. Since this date Mrs. Beckner has been seriously ill. She gave the blood I would say about 11 or 12 o'clock. Mr. Beckner brought her to my home and I prepared lunch and Mrs. Beckner came out to the table and said she was so hungry, then she said, "Oh, I am so sick" and got up to go in the other room and she fainted or whatever happened, we didn't know.

I called Dr. Paul Yost and he came; he said she has had a stroke and not to move her, but to keep her quiet. Dr. Yost sent a telegram to her son to come home at once. He had finished his training and would be sailing soon; he came home within a few days.

We kept Mrs. Beckner at our home for 1 week, then she was taken to her home. From the day that she gave her blood she has not been able to do anything for herself. As you know it takes money for doctors and nurses but she needed both and they have had a great expense and no help from anyone at all. They had to sell their home to pay these bills, but she is needing care yet, and they need some help so please take care of this case soon. I have known the Beckners for quite a long time.

I am sending address of the doctor who took care of Mrs. Beckner while here at our home: Dr. Paul Yost, 823 Fourth Street, Fairmont, W. Va.

I trust you will do something about this case.

Thank you,

Mrs. MARY PATTON.

Taken, subscribed, and sworn to before me this 28th day of February 1950.

[SEAL]

ROBERT C. GROSS.

Notary Public, Fairmont, W. Va.

My commission expires April 29, 1956.

FAIRMONT, W. VA., May 1, 1950.

HON. ROBERT L. RAMSAY,
Member of Congress, Washington, D. C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RAMSAY: I was called to the home of Mrs. Mary Patton, Third Street, Fairmont, W. Va., on November 5, 1943, to see Mrs. Lulu Beckner, wife of Raymond D. Beckner. I found Mrs. Beckner suffering from shock and cerebral hemorrhage or stroke of apoplexy.

I was informed by the husband, Raymond D. Beckner, that about noon of that day Mrs. Beckner had acted as a blood donor in contribution to the Armed Forces of the Government of the United States.

To the medical profession there isn't supposed to be any risk in taking a normal amount of blood from a normal person.

In the case of Mrs. Beckner something occurred which can be explained as follows: Due to her age and that she was in late menopausal life with an unstable nervous system and within an hour after the bloodletting procedure Mrs. Beckner went into a state of what is known to the medical profession as generalized "capillary fragility" which causes the blood pressure to become very high for a short duration, and the stroke of apoplexy or cerebral hemorrhage is a direct result of what I have just stated.

I have been Mrs. Beckner's attending doctor since November 5, 1943. Her condition has been such that someone has had to be in attendance to care for her since November 5, 1943.

Yours very truly,

PAUL YOST, M. D.

FAIRMONT CHAPTER, AMERICAN RED CROSS,
Fairmont, W. Va., February 21, 1950.

HON. ROBERT L. RAMSAY,
Congressman, House of Representatives Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

HONORABLE SIR: On yesterday, Mr. D. R. Beckner called my office and asked me to forward to you certain information concerning his wife, Mrs. Lulu Beckner, as regards her present disability and as it relates to her having donated blood to the Armed Forces. The following is a narrative of Mrs. Beckner's case:

In November 1943 the American Red Cross of Fairmont, W. Va., acting as a recruiting agency for the blood plasma program for the Armed Forces, advertised for blood donors. Mrs. Lulu Beckner of Route No. 1, Fairmont, W. Va., volunteered as a donor and was scheduled to report at the blood donor center on November 5. Mrs. Beckner kept her appointment and met all requirements such as physical examination, etc. She gave blood at approximately 12 noon and neither during nor immediately following appeared to have any unusual reactions. She was released from the blood donor center by the Navy physician in charge as physically able to leave.

The following day, November 6, 1943, the chapter was advised that when Mrs. Beckner left the blood donor center she went to the home of a friend in Fairmont, W. Va., and about 1:30 p. m., November 5, she became very ill and, as termed by her husband, went into convulsions. The family physician was called but he did not see or attend Mrs. Beckner until 6:30 p. m. the same day, November 5. Dr. Paul Yost, family physician, when contacted stated that Mrs. Beckner has a stroke; further than that he made no statement.

According to Mr. Beckner, his wife was later moved to her home at Route No. 1, Fairmont, W. Va. She was unable to assume the responsibility of her household duties and required the aid of another person continuously. He

obtained the services of Mrs. Sophia Griggs, who was then in her late 60's. Her salary was \$20 per month. She was with Mrs. Beckner until August 1947 when she fell in the Beckner home and broke her hip. Mr. Beckner admitted Mrs. Griggs to the Fairmont General Hospital assuming responsibility for her hospital bill. The total bill paid by Mr. Beckner was \$1,049. There was a \$200 balance unpaid. Mr. Beckner was finally able to have Mrs. Griggs accepted by the department of public assistance for assistance which relieved him of further responsibility.

At the time Mrs. Griggs became ill it was necessary that another attendant be obtained for Mrs. Beckner; however, the salary was \$50 a month.

Mr. Beckner is employed as a janitor at the Federal Building, Fairmont, W. Va. earning a salary of \$180 per month. With the hospital expenses of Mrs. Griggs, the salary of an attendant for his wife and living expenses, Mr. Beckner was thrown deeply into debt. He sold his home and moved to another property which he owned. In addition to the above expenses, Mr. Beckner estimates that professional services and medicine for Mrs. Beckner since November 5, 1943, to the date of his first contact with the chapter on March 10, 1948, amounted to approximately \$1,000. Mr. Beckner tells me that he estimates the extra expenses of his wife's illness since November 5, 1943, at approximately \$5,000.

According to Mr. Beckner, his wife has been constantly under the care of Dr. Paul Yost, Fairmont, W. Va., but has consulted other physicians. Those mentioned by Mr. Beckner were Dr. Hanes, Clarksburg, W. Va., and a doctor in Parkersburg, W. Va., but he was unable to recall the name.

Under date of March 10, 1948, Mr. Beckner came to the chapter office requesting assistance in hospitalization for his wife. He asked particularly about having her admitted to a Government hospital. The eligibility requirements for admittance to a Government hospital were explained to him and he stated that he understood and that Mrs. Beckner did not meet the requirements.

Mr. Beckner feels that his wife's condition is directly caused by having donated blood. The chapter's responsibility in this connection was discussed with Mr. Beckner and he stated that he recognized the fact that Mrs. Beckner volunteered her services but that it did not relieve him of the responsibility which he has had since that time.

The chapter acted merely as the recruiting agency and I should like to call your attention to the fact that the blood was donated directly to the Armed Forces and that the technical and professional service was done by the Government; in this instance supervision was given by a Navy physician.

In April 1948 the chapter disaster chairman reviewed the case of Mrs. Beckner in the eastern area headquarters of the American Red Cross and in May 1948 a decision was received from the medical director that the donation of blood was in no way a causative factor in the apoplexy that followed. The medical service was advised that the practice of bleeding persons with high blood pressure and impending stroke is a common and accepted practice in medicine.

The chapter is quite sympathetic to Mr. Beckner's point of view and I believe you will understand that without regard to medical opinion in the matter to the contrary, Mr. Beckner feels that his wife's condition is the direct result of having given blood, especially as it appeared that not more than an hour or an hour and one-half elapsed from the time she made her donation until the time she became ill.

Your attention is directed to the fact that the Red Cross throughout the war acted as the recruiting agent for the Armed Forces for blood donors and assisted the medical officer and staff at the blood donor centers. Since the Red Cross participated to this limited extent in the project it is nowise responsible and that the medical officer of the Red Cross is correct in taking the position that Mrs. Beckner's illness was an unfortunate coincidence and that her illness is in nowise related to her having made a blood donation. From a public relations point of view, however, this is not entirely true, in the mind of the average citizen the blood was donated to the Red Cross to be used by it for the Armed Forces. This is an additional reason for our chapter taking the position that we would like to help the Beckners.

The chapter is ready and willing to render to you all possible assistance and to assist in making any additional investigations that you suggest. Please feel free to call on us at any time in regard to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

FAIRMONT CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS,
CARTER D. JONES, *Chapter Chairman.*